



# Medicare beneficiaries:

## What to bring to your Rx counseling/workshop

*We want your SHIBA HelpLine counseling or workshop session to be as helpful as possible. In order to serve you most effectively, you need to bring the following information with you:*

- 1 List of all the prescription drugs that you use.**  
You can use our “Medication Tracker” form to help you list them, including dosage and pharmacy information, and the name of the doctor who prescribed each one.  
**WHY?** Each company that offers a Medicare prescription drug plan has a different list of drugs that it will cover. This is called a formulary or preferred drug list. You need to know which prescriptions you use in order to know which plan to choose.
- 2 ACTUAL cost of the prescription drugs you are using.**  
This is NOT the copayment or coinsurance you pay. Consult your pharmacist if you are not sure of the actual cost of your drugs.  
**WHY?** In order to compare plans and decide what option is best for you, you’ll need to know the full cost of the drugs you take.
- 3 Name of doctor(s) you are seeing and the names of their clinics or practices.**  
**WHY?** In some cases, you may wish to talk with your doctor about changing to another drug that is equivalent to one you take, in order to save money.
- 4 Current insurance cards, benefit booklets, or prescription drug cards.**  
**WHY?** Your current coverage tells you what factors you need to consider when deciding whether Medicare’s new prescription drug coverage is right for you, and to assess your Medicare prescription drug options.
- 5 Your income (monthly).**  
If you’re not sure what this amount is, ask a volunteer or use the SHIBA HelpLine publication “Income/Assets--What Counts?” for an explanation.  
**WHY?** There is assistance available for Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes and assets. Some programs offered by the State and the drug companies also may depend upon your income. These programs can save you a great deal of money.

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## 6 Value of your countable assets.

If you're not sure of this amount ask a volunteer or ask for the SHIBA HelpLine publication "Income/Assets--What Counts?"

**WHY?** There is assistance available for Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes and assets. Some programs offered by the State and the drug companies also may depend upon your assets.

## 7 Your Medicare ID number or Medicare card.

**WHY?** We may be able to help you sign up for programs during our meeting. You will need your Medicare ID to do this. Be certain you give this number ONLY to a SHIBA HelpLine volunteer or other trusted professional. If in doubt, don't give it out!

## 8 Decision letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) stating that you are eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), if you have it.

**WHY?** This will help the volunteer assist you with applying for extra help with the costs of Medicare's new prescription drug coverage.

## 9 Any letter regarding whether or not your current prescription drug coverage is as good as Medicare's prescription drug plan.

**WHY?** This will help the volunteer determine whether or not you can wait to enroll in Medicare's new prescription drug plan without a penalty.

## 10 For people with Medicare and Medicaid, bring the letter from Medicare (CMS) about which one of the Medicare prescription drug plans you have been assigned to.

**WHY?** So we can help you decide if that's the best plan for you.

## 11 Any questions you have about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage.

SHIBA HelpLine is a free public service of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner. Highly trained and supervised volunteers offer completely impartial and confidential assistance. Our role is to educate, assist and advocate for you so you can make informed decisions. Advisors are never affiliated with any company or product.



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

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